Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-129 (cancelled)

Claim 130 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an ~~anti-virally~~ effective amount of a purine or pyrimidine β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 131 (original): The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 132 (original): The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

Claim 133 (original) The method of claim 130 wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in combination or alternation with a second anti-hepatitis C agent.

Claim 134 (original): The method of claim 133, wherein second agent is selected from the group consisting of interferon, ribavirin, a protease inhibitor, a thiazolidine derivative, a polymerase inhibitor, and a helicase inhibitor.

Claim 135 (original): The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is interferon.

Claim 136 (original): The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is ribavirin.

Claim 137 (original): The method of claim 130, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of claim 137, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg ~~of the β-D-2'methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside~~.

Claim 139 (original): The method of claim 137, wherein said dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 140 (original): The method of claim 130, wherein the host is a human.

Claim 141 (original): The method of claim 130, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is in substantially pure form.

Claim 142 (original): The method of claim 141, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

Claim 143 (original): The method of claim 141, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

Claim 144 (New) The method of claim 130, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered.

Claim 145 (New) The method of claim 130, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

Claim 146 (New) The method of claim 130, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable ester.

Claim 147 (New) The method of claim 144 wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

Clam 148 (New) The method of claim 145 wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 149 (New) The method of claim 146 wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 150 (New) The method of claim 144 wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

Claim 151 (New) The method of claim 145 wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

Claim 152 (New) The method of claim 146 wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.